

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 NIC-01 SAJ-01 OMB-01 NEA-10

DRC-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 /145 W

----- 040065

R 080725Z JAN 74

FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9193

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USLO PEKING

US MISSION GENEVA 185

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE HONG KONG 263

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CH, XF

SUBJ: PEKING ANALYZES MID-EAST FOR DOMESTIC AUDIENCE

SUMMARY: PEKING APPEARS TO BE BROADENING ITS POTENTIAL FOR
A FLEXIBLE RESPONSE TO ANY AGREEMENTS WHICH MAY COME OUT OF THE
GENEVA CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. NCNA'S DOMESTIC SERVICE ON JAN 3 CARRIED A COMMENTATOR'S
ANALYSIS OF THE MID-EAST SITUATION. THE ARTICLE EXPRESSED THE
STANDARD LINE ABOUT U.S. AND SOVIET CONTENTION FOR HEGEMONY IN
THE MIDDLE EAST AND THEIR ENGINEERING OF THE RECENT "CEASEFIRE
PLOT". THE NCNA ANALYSIS, HOWEVER, PRESENTED PEKING'S FIRST
DIRECT COMMENT ON U.S. DIPLOMATIC MOVES IN THE AREA. IT NOTED
SECRETARY KISSINGER'S DIPLOMATIC SUCCESSES AND DESCRIBED HOW
THE UNITED STATES ACTING AS "AN ANGEL OF PEACE" LAUNCHED A
"SMOTHERING POLITICAL-DIPLOMATIC OFFENSIVE" WHICH LEFT THE
SOVIETS IN A "PASSIVE POSITION." THE SOVIET RESPONSE, ACCORDING
TO THE COMMENTATOR, HAS BEEN TO TRY TO IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH
ISRAEL AND TO MAKE A "VAIN ATTEMPT" TO DRAW THE PLO INTO ITS
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POLITICAL ORBIT.

2. THE ARTICLE ALSO REVIEWED CHARGES THAT THE SOVIETS WERE SUPPLY-
ING IMMIGRANT MANPOWER TO ISRAEL AND CHARGED THAT MOSCOW'S
PURPOSE WAS TO "KEEP THE CONTRADICTIONS BETWEEN THE ARABS
AND ISRAELIS AS THEY ARE SO AS TO MAKE IT EASY FOR ITSELF TO
CARRY OUT CONTROL AND
EXPANSION IN THE ARAB COUNTRIES." THIS IS A VARIATION OF THE
CHARGE THAT THE SOVIETS WISH TO PERPETUATE A "NO WAR, NO
PEACE" SITUATION, BUT IT ALSO IMPLIES THAT A JUST PEACE BETWEEN
THE ARAB STATES AND ISRAEL COULD LEAD TO A REDUCTION OF SOVIET
INFLUENCE IN THE MID-EAST. THE ARTICLE DID NOT DISCUSS THE
GENEVA CONFERENCE AND FOR SEVERAL DAYS NCNA HAS NOT CARRIED
NEGATIVE COMMENT FROM ABROAD ON THE CONFERENCE. PEKING MAY THUS
BE BROADENING ITS POTENTIAL FOR A FLEXIBLE RESPONSE TO ANY
AGREEMENTS WHICH MAY COME OUT OF THE GENEVA TALKS.

OSBORN

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